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SUGGESTIONS FOR

# Painting and Decorating Cypress Dwellings and Structures

With Prepared Paints



**Southern Cypress Manufacturers' Association**

Poydras Building,  
New Orleans, Louisiana



Graham Building  
Jacksonville, Florida



We have not attempted to give all the details of painting in this pamphlet, merely suggestions. There are many things to consider, the weather one of the important ones. Good brushes must be used, there is no economy in a cheap brush, the best brush obtainable is the economy. There are special brushes for all the different kinds of jobs that need to be done. As to paint, the best is the kind to get, cheap paints mean a cheap job. There is a difference in the work on old and new buildings, floors and interior wood work. This applies to paint, varnish and stain. Do not attempt the work without proper understanding of priming, the right brushes and paints. Keep brushes clean when not in use, and they will last a long time. We invite correspondence on this subject, and will endeavor to supply details on request.

**Identify Genuine "Tide Water" Red Cypress  
by this Trade Mark**



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# Painting and Decorating Cypress Dwellings and Structures

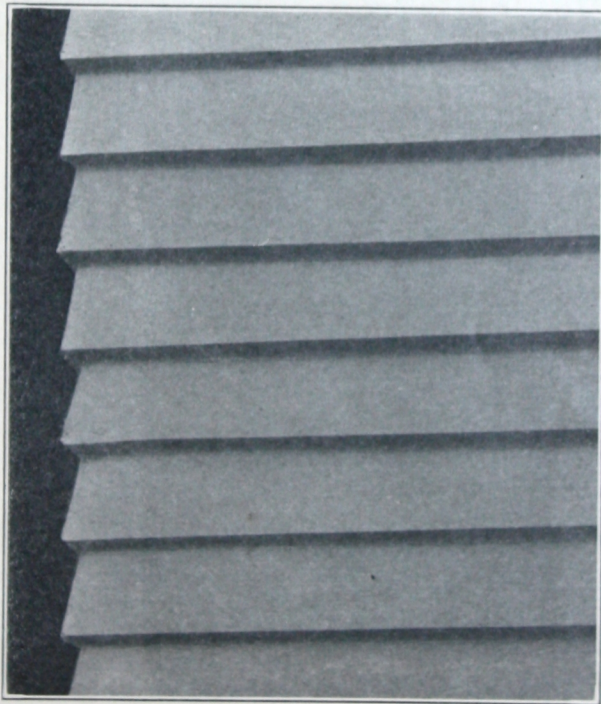
Repeated requests for information regarding the use of ready-mixed paints for cypress have been received from paint dealers, painters, and property owners. The use of a properly thinned priming paint that will dry to firm film, is the basis of most good painting. HENRY A. GARDNER, Institute of Paint & Varnish Research, Washington, D. C.

Copyright, 1923, by H. A. Gardner

CYPRESS is universally recognized as one of the most durable woods for general construction purposes. Hundreds of examples of the longevity of this wood are to be found in the old colonial dwellings of the Southern and Middle Atlantic States. Enthusiastic users have stated that cypress needs no paint. Even if this should be so, people would look askance at the dwelling that was left unpainted, for the modern desire for community betterment demands aesthetic surroundings and properly decorated homes. As a matter of fact, however, paint helps to increase the life of any species of wood, because it keeps out moisture and fungi, the first effects of which are shown by surface staining.

The question has often been asked as to the holding power of paint upon cypress wood. This question can be answered by stating that cypress takes and holds properly prepared paint with highly satisfactory results, provided the paint is properly applied. Painters at one time had no understanding of the distinctive nature and properties of cypress and they naturally made the mistake of treating it like any other type of wood. The researches of the lumber expert, however, have shown that cypress contains an oily ingredient known as Cypressine, which seldom appears upon the surface of the wood, but which may be the active agent that gives to cypress its remarkable durability. The painter and

paint expert have made their contribution to the subject by demonstrating that remarkable painting results may be obtained by the application of paints thinned with certain volatiles, which will cause an amalgamation of the priming coat with the Cypressine contained in the pores of the wood, producing a composite bonding coat that is undisturbed by exposure to the elements.



CYPRESS SIDING WITH MITERED CORNERS

*Principles of Successful Painting.*—The failure of paint to give the expected service upon any type of wood is due in a majority of cases to factors which may easily be overcome by the observance of principles which have been developed as a result of many practical tests. The most important of these is to avoid painting during damp weather. Dampness prevents proper penetration of the paint into the wood, delays the hardening or drying of the film, and produces a soft coating that may be affected by the weather. Often the dampness which may be drawn out through a new house from the fresh plaster will affect the

paint and cause blisters to form. For these reasons it is very necessary that all exterior painting work should be done upon properly dried surfaces during a dry period of weather. Another factor which must be carefully avoided is the use of shellac over knots or sappy surfaces. When paint is applied over such shellacked surfaces, no penetration is obtained and the action of

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the weather will cause flaking and scaling at such spots. The use of ochre as a priming coat on new wooden surfaces should also be carefully avoided. Probably more cases of failure have been caused by this material than any other.

*Selecting a Paint.*—In selecting a paint for the dwelling the property owner should understand that best results are obtained with paints made by the thorough grinding of pigments and oils in the powerful machinery that is used by the manufacturer. The property owner should also be taught that the most durable results from exterior painting are obtained from the use of tinted paints. Permanent colors which are ground by machine into lead and zinc paints have the effect of increasing the durability of such paints by 30 per cent or more. Of course, in some instances white is the color that gives the most harmonious effect, but in most cases, tinted paints should be selected. The majority of the high-grade Prepared Paints to be purchased from reliable dealers in any city will give the most highly satisfactory results, as they closely approximate the prepared paint that is called for in the specifications of the U. S. Government.\*

*Spreading Rate of Paints on Wooden Surfaces.*—Paints ready to apply will spread from 500 to 800 feet per gallon, one coat. The average spreading rate, however, of the paint for three-coat work, when well brushed out, is generally reported as about 200 to 250 feet.

*Cost of Painting.*—The number of gallons required for a job may be estimated by figuring out the square feet of surface to be coated and dividing by 225. For two-coat work, divide by 350. The cost of application will depend entirely upon wage scales in various communities and upon whether the work is done by an employe or the property owner himself. The use of spray

machines for large surfaces will greatly reduce the cost of application.

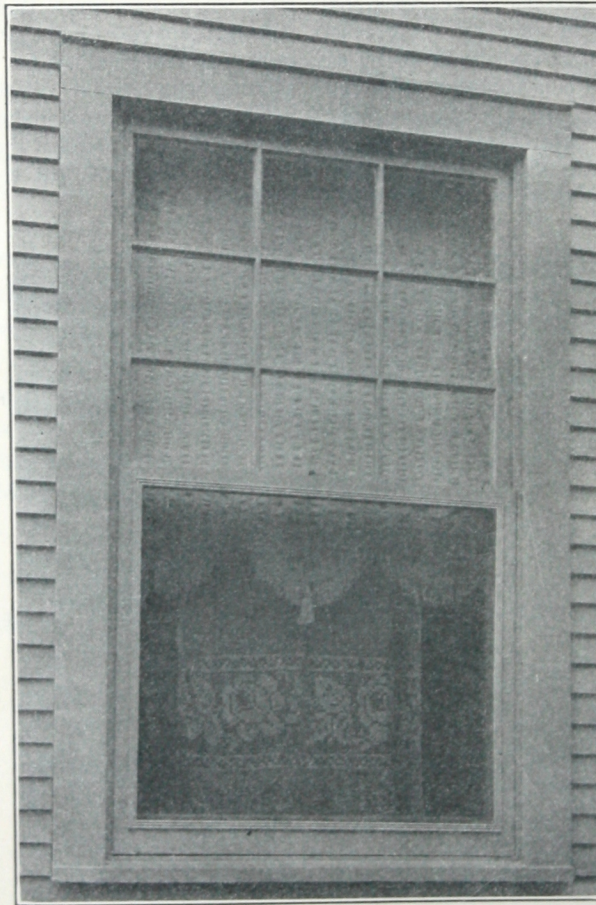
### PAINTING CYPRESS DWELLINGS

*Siding and General Outside Trim and Miscellaneous Construction, Including Porches, Columns, Cornices, Balusters, Pergolas, Arbors, Trellises, Lattice Work, Greenhouse and Conservatory Framework.*

It is usually advisable to carefully follow the directions that may be found on the can label. When directions are absent the following will serve:

*Priming Coat.*—If old surfaces are to be repainted, all loose paint should be removed with a coarse wire brush. The backs of all window and door frames and other exterior millwork, if not suitably primed at the mill, should be primed before setting. If the surface is new and has not previously been painted, any knots or streaks which are shown should first be brush-coated with turpentine about one hour previous to the application of the paint.

The Prepared Paint should be thoroughly stirred



CYPRESS WINDOW, SASH AND SCREEN FRAME

\*See Federal Specification Board Standard Specification No. 10, white and light tinted exterior paints, U. S. Printing Office. These paints contain not less than 30 per cent zinc oxide, the balance being white lead; not over 15 per cent of inert pigments is allowed.



and two pints of turpentine\* should be added to the gallon of paint. After thorough stirring, the paint should be applied and thoroughly worked into the surface. The paint will penetrate deeply into the wood and dry to a hard under-coating, providing a substantial foundation for subsequent coats of paint.†

**Second Coat.**—After the priming coat has become thoroughly dry and hard, which will require at least three days (preferably a week should be allowed if possible), all nail holes and other imperfections in the wood should be closed with a good grade of pure linseed-oil putty. The second coat of paint may then be applied as it comes from the can in prepared form without thinning. If, however, the paint appears to be somewhat heavy, a pint of turpentine to the gallon of paint may be added.

**Finishing Coat.**—After the second coat has become thoroughly dry, a third coat of paint may be applied as it comes from the can. *Much better results are obtainable,* however, if the two-coated job is allowed to weather for a period of three or four months, subsequently applying the finishing coat of paint to the well-seasoned structure.

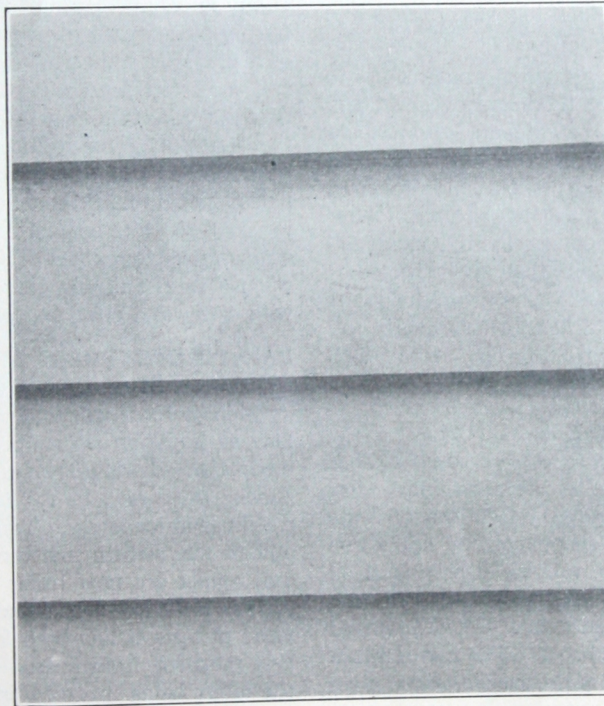
#### PAINTING CYPRESS BARNs, OUTBUILDINGS, EVEN-TEMPERATURE SILOS, WATER TANKS, ETC.

The exterior of the above-named structures may be treated exactly as given above for the painting of the exterior of dwellings; in fact, this procedure is to be preferred, since the color scheme of the various structures upon a farm or other piece of property should be carefully considered by the owner. In some cases, however, it is desired to use a cheaper form of paint for

barns and such buildings. In such instances a high-grade Prepared Barn Paint—preferably of the metallic paint variety—may be selected and applied. The owner should carefully observe those requirements of application previously pointed out.

#### PAINTING CYPRESS PORCH FLOORS

The constant abrasion of surfaces exposed to walking requires that they be coated with paints that are highly abrasion-resistant. For this purpose specially designed Porch Floor Paints should be used. These contain finely ground, hard, abrasion-resisting minerals ground in a weather-resisting varnish vehicle. When applied to porch floors, the first coat should be thinned with turpentine. The second and third coats may then be applied without reduction. Two or three days drying between coats should be allowed. The finished floor will present a glossy, wear-resisting, moisture-proof surface that may be flushed with water whenever necessary.



CYPRESS BUNGALOW SIDING

#### PAINTING AND STAINING EXTERIORS OF CYPRESS BUNGALOWS AND SHINGLE HOUSES

Such structures should preferably be painted, following out

the practice given above for the exterior of dwellings built of cypress siding. When stained surfaces are desired, all exterior surfaces should be brush-coated with a high-grade Creosote Stain of approved manufacture, the color to be selected by the owner or architect. Two weeks should be allowed for drying of the first coat. A second coat may then be applied if desired.

The sash and other trim of the bungalow should be painted—preferably in white or in light colors—to form a contrast with the dark effects produced by the stain.

\*160 per cent Benzol, called high flash naphtha, a water-white coal-tar distillate is even more satisfactory than turpentine for priming work, when obtainable.

†Red lead as a primer for cypress is to be highly recommended. In tests it has given excellent service when covered with prepared zinc-lead paints. Its dark color, however, is rather hard to cover with two thin coats of white paint. Where three coats of white are used, it can be easily covered and will give additional life to the work. When complete hiding is desired with two coats of white, titanium-zinc paint would accomplish the purpose satisfactorily.



### STAINING AND VARNISHING AND TRANS-PARENT FINISHES FOR CYPRESS

For natural finish, the woodwork should be thoroughly cleansed and rough spots if present should be sanded. A very thin coat of white shellac should then be applied. Nail holes and other imperfections should be filled with putty colored to match the wood. Two coats of an approved Interior Finish Varnish should subsequently be applied, the last coat being flowed on. Sandpaper between coats with 00 sandpaper and allow each coat 48 hours for drying. When a flat finish is desired, Dull Finish Varnishes may be used or, in place thereof, a coat of approved finishing wax, rubbed and polished to a semi-flat finish.

*Stained Work.*—When the cypress woodwork is to be stained, it should first be thoroughly cleaned and made free from imperfections. A prepared stain should be selected made on a linseed-oil base and containing benzol in order to obtain good penetration. Prepared acid stains or water stains may also be used. After application and drying, sandpaper lightly, close nail holes with putty to match stain, then apply two coats of approved Interior Finish Varnish, sandpapering lightly between coats. For a flat surface, lightly rub with oil and pumice stone or apply one coat of Dull Finish Varnish, or wax.

### FINISHING CYPRESS FLOORS

Clean the floors to remove grease or stains so that they will be in good condition to receive the finish. For natural color finish, apply one very thin coat of white shellac, rub lightly with 00 sandpaper and apply two coats of best Floor Varnish, rubbing lightly with oil and pumice stone if a dull finish is desired. The varnished surface may be treated with a coat of prepared floor wax and rubbed and polished. The use of a thin coat of floor varnish in place of the shellac primer gives a more durable film.

*Stained Floors.*—After thoroughly cleansing the surface, apply one coat of linseed-oil prepared stain. After drying, apply two or three coats of best Floor Varnish. Wax if desired.

### PAINTING INTERIOR CYPRESS TRIM

In some rooms it is desirable that the doors, frames, base-boards, window-sills, and other interior trim should be finished in white or light colored paints. A high-grade prepared paint (Interior White) made by a reputable manufacturer should be selected. Such paints are ground in a very light colored varnish or oil medium. For the priming coat there should be added two pints of turpentine to a gallon of paint. A thin coat of the thoroughly stirred mixture should be applied, thoroughly brushing it in. After drying, the imperfections should be puttied up and two or three

coats of the Interior White should be applied in the desired color, allowing several days between each coat for thorough drying. If varnish is applied over the paint, it should be a good Interior Finishing Varnish, colored with the finishing tint of pigment.

### ENAMELING CYPRESS TRIM

The most attractive finish for cypress trim is that produced by the use of high quality interior enamels. Dining-rooms, bath-rooms, halls, stairways, and kitchens should be finished with such enamels unless there is a special desire to use some other form of treatment. If any knots are apparent in the wood, they should be freshly coated with turpentine. Apply a priming coat of a prepared paint (Interior White). The nail holes and imperfections should then be filled with putty. Apply a very thin coat of white shellac. Next apply two coats of prepared Interior White or of Prepared Flat Finish Paint. Then apply one coat consisting of half paint and half enamel. Then apply one full flowing coat of white enamel. Sandpaper lightly between coats after thorough drying. The enameled coats, when a satin finish is desired, may be lightly rubbed with water and powdered pumice.

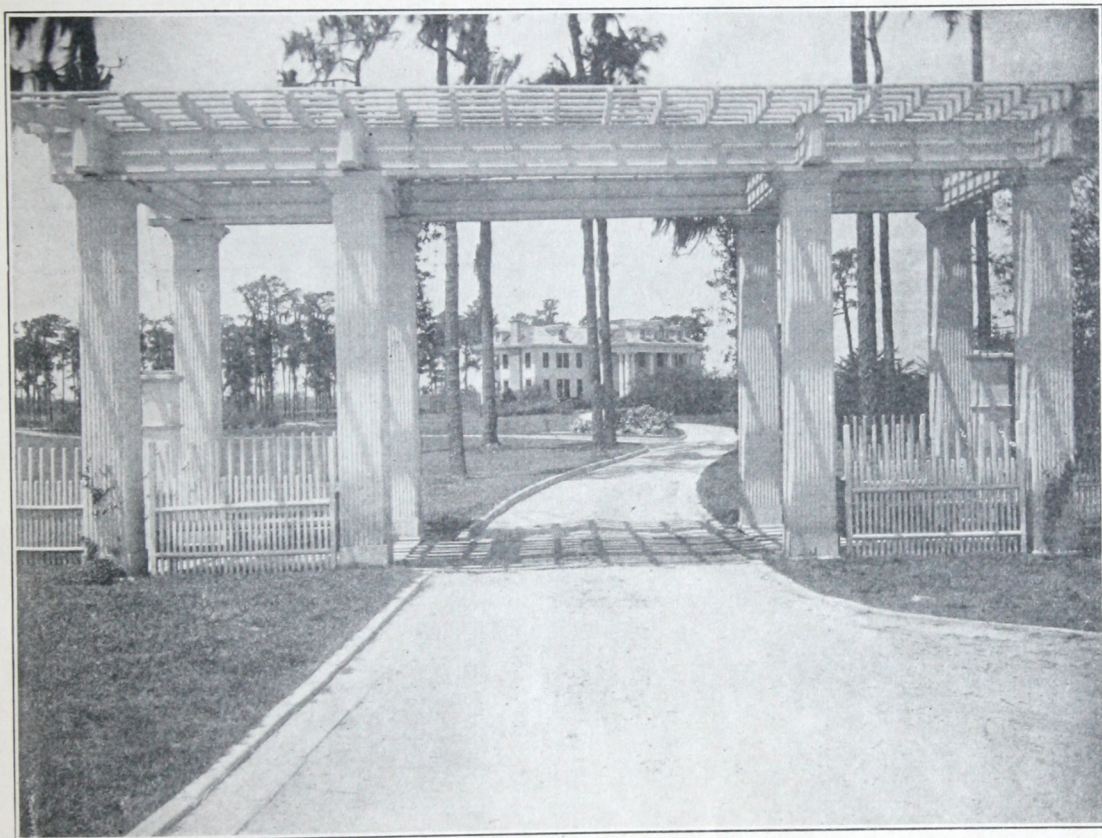
### PAINTING CYPRESS SHINGLE ROOFS WITH FIRE-RESISTING PAINTS

Shingle roofs will undoubtedly continue in use as long as frame structures are built, since they possess distinctive advantages over all other types of roofing. Among these may be mentioned their low cost, light weight, and longevity. To add to their attractiveness and to make them moisture-resisting and fire-retardant, paints are now being applied in various colors, such as slate, green, and maroon. As a result of many years of tests it has been found that such paints are best prepared from linseed oil and mineral pigments, the latter being in excess in order to form, when applied, a dried film of high mineral content. High-grade prepared mineral-linseed-oil paints designed especially for service on shingle roofs (Fire-Retardant Shingle Paints) are now on the market and are obtainable in any locality from reputable dealers. The shingles may be dipped before laying, and subsequently brush-coated, or the new shingles may, if well seasoned, be brush-coated after laying without fear of dry rot. The rain water from roofs treated in this fashion should be tasteless and colorless. The service to be expected from such paints should be from five to six years without repainting.

### PAINTING CYPRESS TANKS

Cypress tanks have a very wide use. For the sake of decoration, in many establishments they are painted on the outside. The appearance of such tanks if properly painted is highly attractive, especially in places





CYPRESS PERGOLA

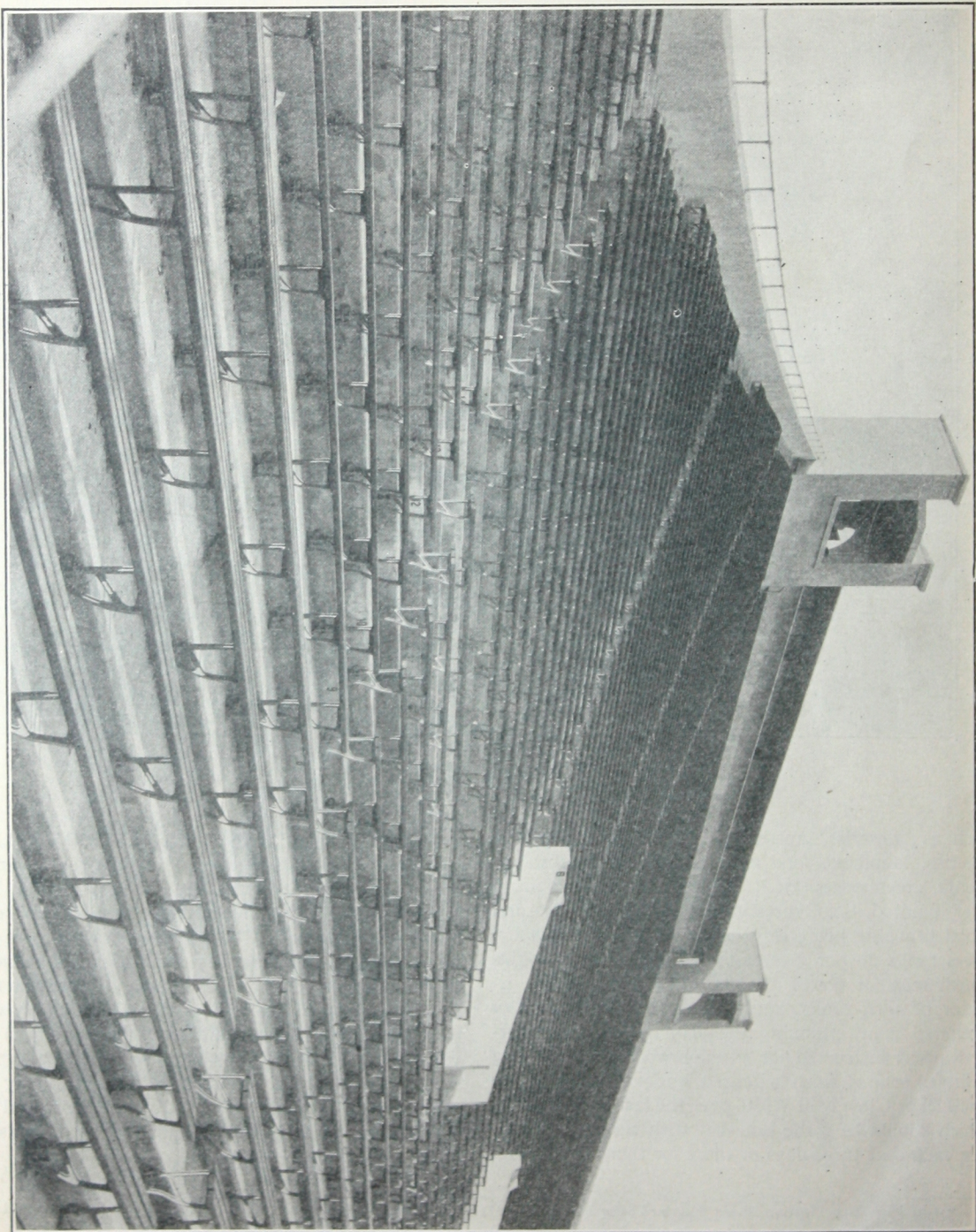
such as breweries, creameries, cheese factories, distilleries, laundries, food and meat packing establishments, greenhouses, etc. The interiors are seldom, if ever, painted, the Cypressine contained in the natural wood probably being responsible for the fact that cypress tanks do not give taste or odor to most liquids which may be placed therein. For painting the exterior of such tanks, apply three successive coats of prepared paint, thinning the priming coat with turpentine as instructed for exterior work. If a highly sanitary enamel finish is desired, apply a coat of White Enamel or Gloss Mill White over the last coat of paint, which should be made semi-flat with turpentine. Allow each coat three days or more for thorough drying.

#### PAINTING WALLS IN A CYPRESS DWELLING

All interior walls and ceilings of plaster or cement are to be coated with three coats of Sanitary Flat Wall Lithopone Paints\* of the oil type, in colors to be selected by the owner. The lighter colors are to be preferred in most rooms, as they give the greatest amount of illumination. Light buff, blue, and other tints are usually applied to the walls and light cream or white to the ceilings. Harmonious color effects are thus provided. The paints are washable and may be kept in a perfectly sanitary condition. When applying the priming coat of paint, one quart of raw linseed oil and one-half gill of drier to the gallon of Flat Finish is often used.

\*See Federal Specification Board Standard Specification No. 21, U. S. Printing Office. These paints are made of lithopone and a flat oil or varnish liquid.





BROWN UNIVERSITY, PROVIDENCE, R. I., TIDEWATER CYPRESS SEATS